

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RE-ORGANIZATION OF DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS
AND CREATION OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

1. THE POST HAS BEEN INFORMED IN CONFIDENCE OF SOME
DETAILS OF THE INTENDED REORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRIES OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS AND THE PROBABLE DISSOLUTION
OF THE PRESENT DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS.

2. PLANS CALL FOR CREATION OF A MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT WHICH
WILL ABSORB THE AIRPORTS AND PORTS DIVISIONS FROM THE MINISTRIES
OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MERCHANT MARINE
DIVISION AND THE TERRESTRIAL TRAFFIC DIVISION FROM THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. THE NEW MINISTRY WILL HAVE
JURISDICTION OVER GOV-OWNED AIRLINES AND THE MAIQUETIA
AIRPORT AUTHORITY. THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS IS
TO BE DISSOLVED, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION IS
INEFFICIENT STRUCTURALLY AND WITH RESPECT TO PERSONNEL.

3. AS A FIRST STEP THE OPERATIONS AND AIRWAYS DIVISIONS, WHICH
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ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSPECTION, SEARCH AND RESCUE, AIR TRAFFIC

CONTROL, LICENSING, NAVAIDS, AIRWAYS AND FLIGHT DEPARTMENTS, WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MAIQUETIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY. SUBSEQUENTLY, A CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NEW MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT. AT A LATER DATE, THE INSPECTION AND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENTS WOULD BE SEPARATED AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY. THE AIR TRANSPORT DIVISION, WHICH NOW REGULATES TARIFFS, SCHEDULES, CLEARANCES, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WOULD BE SPLIT INTO A DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND A DOMESTIC DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR CAB-TYPE SUPERVISION OF VENEZUELAN CARRIERS, AIR TAXI OPERATORS AND GENERAL AVIATION COMPANIES. THIS DIVISION WOULD BECOME PART OF THE NEW MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

4. THE ENTIRE PROJECT IS BEING HANDLED WITH UTMOST DISCRETION WITHIN GOV CIRCLES AND APPEARS TO BE GENERALLY UNKNOWN. IT APPEARS THAT THE MINISTERS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER AND AVIATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIONS ARE THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS IN ANY EFFORTS TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT OF THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS.

5. THE REORGANIZATIONS PLAN ALSO WOULD TURN OVER THE ENTIRE MAINTENANCE OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, RADARS AND AIRPORT FACILITIES, SUCH AS LANDING AIDS, TO A FOREIGN CONTRACTOR. THIS PROJECT, OFFERS FOR WHICH HAVE BEEN IN THE HANDS OF THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS, HAS BEEN RESISTED STRONGLY BY THE UNIONS EVEN THOUGH TRAINED PERSONNEL ARE GENERALLY NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY. THE USE OF SEMI-TRAINED PERSONNEL OR UNION MEMBERS WITH ONLY EMPIRICAL TRAINING IS CONSIDERED DANGEROUS IN VENEZUELAN AVIATION CIRCLES.

6. THE REORGANIZATION PROJECT WILL REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE A TIME FRAME AT THIS MOMENT. THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN DRAWING UP THESE PLANS BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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